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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program listings and provides program rating data that is associated with rating sources, the client terminal comprising:

a video distribution system interface to receive the program guide information and the program rating data;

a display interface to display the program guide on the display device;

a user interface to receive user input;

a local memory to store a ranking program; and

a terminal controller responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for:

a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of a plurality of different critic profiles displayed on the display device via user input;

b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;

c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon the selected critic profile; and

d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

2-5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the preference engine further creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

7.   (Previously Presented) The client terminal of claim 6, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select a user profile and applying the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

8.   (Original) The client terminal of claim 6, wherein, the preference engine creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

9.   (Previously Presented) The client terminal of claim 8, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select an aggregated user profile and applying the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

10-11. (Canceled)

12.   (Previously Presented) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the preference engine creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively.

13.   (Previously Presented) The client terminal of claim 12, wherein the terminal controller is further responsive to the user interface and the ranking program for allowing the user to select a virtual critic profile and applying the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data

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associated with the virtual critic profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

14.   (Original) The client terminal of claim 1, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

15-18. (Canceled)

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer program ~~embodied~~ encoded in a computer readable storage medium ~~for use in~~ executable by a client terminal connectable to a video distribution system and a display device, the video distribution system provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program listings and provides program rating data that is associated with rating sources, the computer program comprising code segments for:

> a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of a plurality of different critic profiles displayed on the display device via user input;
> b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;
> c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon the selected critic profile; and
> d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

20-23. (Canceled)

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 19, wherein, the preference engine creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 24, further comprising code segments for:

    a. allowing the user to select the user profile;

    b. applying the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile;

    c. ranking the program listings; and

    d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 19, wherein, the preference engine creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 26, further comprising code segments for:

    a. allowing the user to select the aggregated user profile;

    b. applying the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile;

    c. ranking the program listings; and

    d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 19, wherein, the preference engine creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 30, further comprising code segments for:

    a. allowing the user to select the virtual critic profile;

b. applying the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile;

    c. ranking the program listings; and

    d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

32. (Original) The computer program of claim 19, wherein, the client terminal is coupled to the video distribution system by a link that provides a persistent connection.

33-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A method for presenting ranked program listings in a program guide based upon a selected rating source, the method comprising the steps of:

    a. allowing the user to select a critic profile based upon a critic rating source from a list of a plurality of different critic profiles displayed on the display device via user input;

    b. generating the critic profile based upon past program rating data associated with the critic rating source by utilizing a preference engine to rate at least one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic rating source;

    c. ranking and ordering program listings based upon the selected critic profile; and

    d. displaying the ranked and ordered program listings in the program guide on the display device.

38-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns utilizing the preference engine.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

    a. allowing the user to select the user profile;

    b. applying the user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the user profile;

    c. ranking the program listings; and

    d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns utilizing the preference engine.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising the steps of:

    a. allowing the user to select the aggregated user profile;

    b. applying the aggregated user profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile;

    c. ranking the program listings; and

    d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

45-46. (Canceled)

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of creating a virtual critic profile based upon a plurality critics' preferences derived from program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively, utilizing the preference engine.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

    a. allowing the user to select the virtual critic profile;

    b. applying the virtual critic profile to the program guide information of the program guide to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile;

  c. ranking the program listings; and

  d. displaying the program listings in the program guide.

49.   (Previously Presented) A video distribution system connectable to a client
terminal that is in turn connected to a display device, the video distribution system
provides program guide information to create a program guide that includes program
listings displayable on the display device and a list of a plurality of different critic profiles
based upon a plurality of critic rating sources, respectively, also displayable on the
display device, the video distribution system comprising:

  a video distribution system controller;

  memory to store a ranking program and rating sources; and

  a preference engine to generate a critic profile based upon past program rating
  data associated with a critic rating source, the preference engine rating at least
  one program that does not have program rating data associated with the critic
  rating source;

  wherein, in response to user input selecting the critic profile from the list of
  different critic profiles received from the client terminal, the video distribution
  system controller responsive to the ranking program:

    a. ranks and orders program listings based upon the selected critic profile;
    and

    b. commands the client terminal to display the ranked and ordered program
    listings in the program guide on the display device.

50-53. (Canceled)

54.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 49, wherein, the
preference engine further creates a user profile based upon a user's viewing patterns.

55.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 54, wherein, in
response to user input selecting a user profile, the video distribution system controller
responsive to the ranking program applies the user profile to the program guide

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information to create program rating data associated with the user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

56.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 49, wherein, the preference engine further creates an aggregated user profile based upon a plurality of user profiles for a plurality of users, each user profile being based upon each user's viewing patterns.

57.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 56, wherein, in response to user input selecting an aggregated user profile, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program applies the aggregated user profile to the program guide information to create program rating data associated with the aggregated user profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.

58-59. (Canceled)

60.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 49, wherein, the preference engine further creates a virtual critic profile based upon program rating data associated with a plurality of critics from a plurality of different critic rating sources, respectively.

61.   (Previously Presented) The video distribution system of claim 60, wherein, in response to user input selecting a virtual critic profile, the video distribution system controller responsive to the ranking program applies the virtual critic profile to the program guide information to create program rating data associated with the virtual critic profile to rank and display the program listings in the program guide.